Poverty level

1764. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether poverty level in the country came down to twenty-six per cent during the last decades ending 2000;

(b) If so, what was the poverty level during the decades ending 1990, 1980 and 1970 respectively; and

(c) the details of the long term measures being taken to bring down the poverty level in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes Sir, the poverty level in the country has come down to twenty-six per cent in the year 1999-2000.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and State level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The poverty estimates available for the years 1973-74, 1977-78, 1983, 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given below.

Year	Percentage of people Living Below the Poverty Line
1973-74	54.88
1977-78	51.32
1983	44.48
1987-88	38.86
1993-94	35.97
1999-2000	26.10

(c) There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.